Subject No. 284.

Extension of Ganja cultivation.

Messrs. Sashu Timme Gowda, Siravara Ranga Naik of Tumkur Taluk, and Srinivasa Rao and Rama Rao, Kolar.

Summary of discussion.—The cultivation of Ganja has been restricted to the Bangalore and Mysore Districts. It may, with advantage be extended to other Districts also.

Licenses to cultivate Ganja are now given only to a few. It is requested that this concession may be extended to all who wish to cultivate it.

Reply of Government.—A limited quantity is required and there is therefore no scope for raiyats to look for ganja as a profitable crop.

Subject No. 285.

Cultivation of Poppy to be encouraged.

Mr. D. Srikanta Rao of Devankalli.

Summary of discussion.—Cultivation of Poppy seeds should be permitted as is done in the case of Ganja cultivation.

Reply of Government.—Under the existing arrangement the growing of poppy plant cannot be permitted.

Subject No. 286.

Abolition of the tree-tax system.

Mr. B. Sitharamaiya of Chikmagalur.

Summary of discussion.—The present tree-tax system may be abolished and the old system of leasing out date groves and date toddy shops revived.

Reply of Government.—The abolition proposed is not desirable. It will be a retrograde step.

Subject No. 287.

Payment of Shendi Khists to Patels.

Mr. Srikantaiya of Maddagiri Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The Shendi khists are now payable at the Taluk Treasury direct. This is inconvenient to the contractors. Patels of the Maidan Taluks should be authorized to receive khists within Rs. 50 as in the Malnad.

Reply of Government.—This cannot be done. Payment at Taluk Treasury is one of the terms of the agreement to which the contractor agrees, and there need be no grievance about it.

Subject No. 288.

Patels and Shanbhogs to certify to the number of trees tapped in groves.

Mr. Srikantaiya of Maddagiri Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The Excise officials are now certifying to the correctness or otherwise of the number of date trees tapped. The contractors suffer from trees not being marked in time on account of the Excise officials being at a great distance from the date groves. Patels and Shanbhogs should be empowered to issue such certificates. A copy of the list of groves may be kept with Patels and Shanbhogs for the purpose.

Reply of Government.—The Excise Commissioner will be asked to take action to avoid such delays.

Subject No. 289.

Cancellation of the innovation in the conditions of sale.

Mr. Dawudkhan of Tumkur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Contractors were allowed to deposit one month's rent and furnish security for an amount equal to 3 months' rent. But now they are required to execute stamped documents and get them registered at their own expense. This innovation would keep back contractors and should therefore be cancelled.

Reply of Government.—No case for any action by Government has been made out.